

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A ceramic article containing aluminum, silicon, and titanium in a total amount of at least 99 % by weight as reduced to the oxides ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{SiO}_2 + \text{TiO}_2$) ~~and assuming an acidic color in methyl red, an indicator of pKa + 4.8, wherein the aluminum content is in the range of 70.0 – 99.5 % by weight calculated as Al_2O_3 , the silicon content is in the range of 0.06 – 12 % by weight calculated as SiO_2 and the titanium content is in the range of 0.08 – 30 % by weight calculated as TiO_2 , and when the ceramic article is exposed to a methyl red indicator of pKa + 4.8, the methyl red indicator changes color to its acid color.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for the production of a ceramic article containing aluminum, silicon, and titanium in a total amount of at least 99 % by weight as reduced to the oxides ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{SiO}_2 + \text{TiO}_2$) ~~and assuming an acidic color in methyl red, an indicator of pKa + 4.8, which method compris[es]~~ing calcining a mixture containing an aluminum compound, a silicon compound, and a titanium compound at a temperature in the range of 1,000°C - 2,000°C, wherein, when the ceramic article is exposed to a methyl red indicator of pKa + 4.8, the methyl red indicator changes color to its acid color.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the aluminum content in said ceramic is in the range of 70.0 – 99.5 % by weight calculated as Al_2O_3 , the silicon content in said ceramic is in the range of 0.06 – 12 % by weight calculated as SiO_2 and the titanium content in the range of 0.08 – 30 % by weight calculated as TiO_2 in said ceramic article.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein said alumin[[i]]um compound is α -alumina.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein said silicon compound and said titanium compound are ~~compounds which are~~ capable of forming an amorphous layer of silica and titania by being calcined together.

7. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said α -alumina has an alumina crystal diameter in the range of $0.1 - 5 \mu\text{m}$, a particle diameter in the range of $50 - 100 \mu\text{m}$, and a BET specific surface area in the range of $0.1 - 4 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

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17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)
